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**Rainbow races**
Kids take part in the Pride in the Highlands celebration in Minden on Sunday to wrap up Pride Week in the county. /ADAM FRISK staff

# Land Trust tackles invasive plant in Minden area

ADAM FRISK
*Journalist*

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) began work to tackle a small area in Minden Hills last week in an effort to rid the area of invasive Phragmites, a plant that is often referred to as Canada's "worst" invasive plant species.

Rick Whitteker, HHLT's partners in conservation co-ordinator, along with a handful of stewardship rangers took to a section along Hospitality Road, working to remove patches of the aggressive grass.

"Invasive Phragmite is a wetland plant, it likes it wet and it's throughout Haliburton County, along our major roadways and beyond," Whitteker explained. "It's almost always in wet environments, and this is just an effort to try to minimize the risk of it spreading to the Barry Wetland Reserve."

The destructive reed spreads rapidly and overtakes native species for water and nutrients. Phragmites can reach up to five-metres tall and have stems that are tan in colour with blue-green leaves and large, dense seed heads.

"The flower heads will eventually go into seeds in September and October and then those seeds will be blown onto the next location, wherever that might be," Whitteker said. "Those seeds could hitchhike on a car or an ATV and then end up in an environment where they can do significant damage."

Whitteker and the crew were working along a ditch on Hospitality Road, first trimming back the plant before digging down to get to the root system of the Phragmite.

see 'NO BENEFIT' page 13

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# Drag Queen Storytime continues Pride tradition in county

ADAM FRISK
*Journalist*

Auntie Plum reads to children during Drag Queen Storytime at the Minden Hills library on Tuesday. /ADAM FRISK staff

For more than a half-decade, Drag Queen Storytime has been a part of Pride week festivities in the county, a family-friendly event that promotes the love of reading while celebrating diversity, inclusion and self-acceptance.

The Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) hosted Drag Queen Storytime at both the Minden Hills branch and Dysart, featuring Auntie Plum in celebration of Pride in the Highlands, reading books to children of all ages.

"Storytime is more about giving them a positive sense of self and that can be drawn in a multitude of different ways," the performer said in an Aug. 19 interview. "When it comes to picking stories, it's more of a vibe of watching the crew of kids. Sometimes they are really, really young, sometimes they are more school-aged and sometimes there are 80 and 90 year olds who come to the readings."

With her bright pink wig, and wearing a matching pink roseclip, pink shawl and black floral dress, Auntie Plum made her entrance to the sound of more than 30 cheering kids and clapping adults as she sat in a big comfy chair and began to read.

"Kids are honest. They are pure, they see what they see," the drag queen said. "And what they see, they call it. If they think you look like a frog, they say you look like a frog.

"An adult on the other hand is going to mess around with a bunch of different other stuff and try and say everything other than what they are trying to say in a different way. So sometimes talking to adults through the kids is more valuable I think, because kids just see it for what it is, where adults will analyze everything to the nth degree," she said.

Pride week events, like storytime with Auntie Plum, are well celebrated within the community, but there are some residents who are opposed to such events and have been vocal in the past whether through social media or to protest in person.

"We've had death threats here, we've had all kinds of stuff here, we've had the police here," the drag queen said. "It's not so much about throwing hate speech at me, I'm an adult, it is creating a negative environment that you're tossing out to kids.

"So, it's the person throwing the hate speech that's got the problem and they're the ones that are actually creating the negative space, the negative environment for the kids," she said.

A lone protester was standing outside the Minden library, near the Pride tent, holding a piece of cardboard with references to the Bible written on it. The man was arrested by the Ontario Provincial Police. HCPL couldn't comment on the matter, as it's part of a police investigation. OPP did not respond to a request for comment. It's unclear whether the man was charged with a crime.

HCPL has been hosting the storytime event for seven years now and despite some of the opposition to the event, the book readings have always had a strong turnout.

"It's always very popular," Hillary Montgomery, public services manager and deputy CEO, said. "We have families, we get some teens and lots of adult supporters and seniors coming out every year."

Montgomery said in the past there's been a couple of protesters holding signs out front and the library has had to preemptively turn off comments on social media posts about these types of events, but readings have always gone off without a hitch.

"It's always been pretty good here," Montgomery said. "It is always just a great storytime and it's no different from any of the other storytimes, we sing songs and do silly stuff while promoting literacy and it's a great way to support Minden Pride."

## Dancing days

Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) partnered with the River Cone in Minden and Pride in the Highlands to offer a special line dancing class during Pride Week. Local dance instructor Jacqui Bell led the full crowd through the dances, where people of all ages came to participate. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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# Pride co-chairs air concerns at flag raising

THOMAS SMITH
*Journalist*

As with tradition, Minden Hills was the first in Haliburton County to raise the Pride flag on the morning of Monday, Aug. 18. This year marked the ninth year of Pride celebrations in the county.

Pride in the Highlands co-chairs Allan Guinan and Chris Hewson, Ward One Councillor Shirley Johannessen, M.P. Jamie Schmale, and Bob Baynton-Smith all spoke at the event.

Guinan says that while the county's Pride celebrations, now known as Pride in the Highlands, have been a tremendous success, there has been a lack of interest in new volunteers with their organization.

Without new voices joining, he fears that this year's Pride celebrations may be their "last hurrah."

Baynton-Smith shared his coming out journey in his adolescent years. After coming out to his grandparents, he traveled to Scarborough to come out to his parents, who blamed each other for his sexuality.

"It was nobody's fault," said Baynton-Smith. "I was born this way."

Baynton-Smith and Sinclair Russell originally started Minden Pride as a community picnic on the lawn of the Wild Swan Bed and Breakfast in Minden. The event started in a response to the horrific events of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando and the defacement of an 2SLGBTQIA+ owned business in the county.

This year was the first year to have a flag raising in both Algonquin Highlands and Dysart, as well as Minden Hills. There was no flag raising in Highlands East.

While things have been getting better for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, hatred can still be found in the county, noted Guinan.

While decorating downtown Minden, the volunteers received some hateful comments, reinvigorating their drive and reminding them why Pride must happen.

M.P. Jamie Schmale says that he rushed from Ottawa that morning to attend the flag raising. Due to prior commitments, Mayor Bob Carter and other councillors were unable to attend, noted Johannessen.

From Queer Comedy Nights to Drag Storytime, to the annual floating Pride River Parade, this year's Pride in the Highlands celebrations were a huge success.

With the feel-good events and celebrations, the presence of Pride in the Highlands and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community are reminders that everyone is welcome and that hate has no home in the Highlands.

With votes against flying the Pride flag in municipalities across Ontario and discriminatory legislation passed in Alberta, Pride in the Highlands' efforts should not be taken for granted. In 2023, Statistics Canada reported that police-reported hate crimes have increased by over 300 per cent from 2016 to 2023.

Pride in the Highlands is an entirely volunteer-run, nonprofit organization. Composed of local residents and business owners, Pride in the Highlands strives to provide an opportunity for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to share their culture, heritage, and diversity with everyone by fostering a safe community. Visit their website for more information on how to volunteer and their wonderful events year round at www.prideinthehighlands.ca/support-pride.

Pride in the Highlands co-chairs Allan Guinan and Chris Hewson spoke at the Pride in the Highlands flag raising in Minden on Monday, Aug. 18. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Bob Baynton-Smith spoke of his coming out journey at the Pride in the Highlands flag raising held in Minden.

**Pride in Dysart**

The gathering at the first ever Pride flag raising in Dysart et al, hosted by Pride in the Highlands. /photos by Pearl Mansfield

Pride in the Highlands co-chair Chris Hewson addresses the crowd in Dysart during the flag raising on Aug. 18.

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## Pride in the Highlands

Friends prepare floaties ahead of the Pride in the Highlands parade down the Gull River in Minden on Sunday. /ADAM FRISK staff

Friends get set to float down the Gull River as a part of the annual Pride river float.

The main Pride in the Highlands float makes its way down the Gull River in Minden on Sunday as firefighters look on.

People get set to float down the Gull River

Drag Queens Love Masisi and Plum Vicious pose with a group of Pride-goers, who were among the winners of the best floaty award during the Pride in the Highlands celebration

Canadian pop icon Dani Doucette performs.

# Thrift Warehouse provides vital role in community

THOMAS SMITH
*Journalist*

From left, Sarah Parish, Carole Kester, Trevor Comeau, Payton Somers, Mitchell Van Oosterhout, and Nick Pamplin comprise the Thrift Warehouse's current team. /THOMAS SMITH staff

One person's trash is another's treasure.

But how are you supposed to find that treasure before it ends up in the landfill?

That is the goal of SIRCH Community Services' Thrift Warehouse. To give items a new life before they are buried in the dump, never to be seen again.

Over 15 years ago, local businessman Ted Scholtes had the idea to open a warehouse filled with gently used items. SIRCH has been managing the thrift warehouse for the past decade.

Profits from the sale of the items goes towards programs that support vulnerable families, seniors, and other people in the community.

The Thrift Warehouse is more than just finding great deals. It is a lifeline, social hub, and an environmentally-conscious hidden gem of Haliburton County.

Items first come into the Thrift Warehouse through their large bay door. Gracious donors often line up along the road in the mornings before they are even open. A sign shows a list of rotating items that the thrift store is not accepting, either due to seasonality or their abundance of current stock.

Community impact starts at the hands of SIRCH's Sarah Parish, Trevor Comeau, or Mitchell Van Oosterhout, the three stars of the receiving floor. If you have donated an item to the Thrift Warehouse, you have been greeted with a welcoming smile and a polite thank you for your donation. Every donation is assessed by a staff member to ensure that the quality of the donation meets the standards they have set for their customers.

After donations are accepted, staff sort and clean them (if needed). Items like mason jars can be cleaned and put directly on the shelf. Other houseware items such as cutlery and cups can also be sent right out on the sales floor. Rare and unusual items are researched before they are labelled with an appropriate sticker price.

Electronics and fabrics receive additional attention after entering the warehouse. Every electronic device is thoroughly tested to ensure that it is working. With every type of power cord and video game console controller imaginable, Nick Pamplin is in charge of ensuring that everything works.

A summer student and guitar enthusiast, Pamplin loves the surprise that awaits him every day while working for SIRCH. A lover of older music, Pamplin gets excited every time he gets to try out a CD or cassette before it is sold. From Stratocaster guitars to old P.A. systems, Pamplin says that he has seen every type of media and electronics he can think of.

While he has not had many jobs, Pamplin says that he loves how everyone at SIRCH works as a team and helps each other out when needed.

Beyond the electronic testing area, Payton Somers is in charge of sorting, cleaning, and deodorizing all fabrics and clothing that is donated. Using an industrial dryer, fabrics are treated to kill off anything unwanted and make them have a neutral smell. Previously working as the store's cashier, Somers is fascinated by the variety of items that come through the warehouse's doors.

Somers says that her favourite part of working with SIRCH is the people that come through the doors. Every customer has a story to share and she loves to hear them.

When items are ready, they are priced and are loaded into carts and rolled out to the sales floor. Every item has its area, whether it is electronics, housewares, books, hardware, beds, artworks, or records.

After you find a hidden gem for sale, there is a good chance that the person cashing you out is Carole Kester, the warehouse manager. Every morning, Kester gets to the store at 8:30 a.m. to clean up, unlock the doors, and get the store ready for the day.

For those curious what their most in-demand items are, Kester says that DVD players, microwaves, fridges, washers, dryers, and stoves do not last long on the sales floor.

Walking through the store, everyone has a smile on their face and their eyes dart around, taking in every sight, searching for a treasure.

Approaching one treasure hunter, he says that he takes his family every week to the Thrift Warehouse.

"We come up every week when we are up for the cottage," said loyal customer Peter Hanlon. "Their prices are fantastic."

All items are priced at an accessible level, to ensure dignity and affordability. The labour needed to keep the store stocked, operation costs for the warehouse, opportunity to support SIRCH's charitable programs, and the value of items all contribute to the deal you are getting.

Another highly satisfying part of the job is when staff are able to create packages for those in need, says Kester.

With the intense heat this summer, the Thrift Warehouse has had to close early several times. Fortunately, owner Scholtes installed air conditioning in the store on Aug. 18.

Annually, SIRCH diverts over 100,000 cubic feet of items away from landfills each year. With 89 per cent of every dollar going towards SIRCH's other community programs, know that your next shopping spree contributes directly to food security, educational programs, warming kits, and the ability to bring some ease to those experiencing a moment of crisis.

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# *points of view*

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## Lens

**Editorial**

*Emily Stonehouse*

AT THE first official flag raising in Dysart by Pride in the Highlands, I brought my kids.

I was thrilled to be there. A first in the community, and a clear-cut action that showcased a community who cares. Kudos to the many staff members and the one councillor who showed up for the historic moment in local history.

I used to be a member of the Pride in the Highlands committee, helping with their social media accounts for a few years. When life got busier, the organization was understanding when I needed to take a break from the volunteer-based group.

But as a member of the behind-the-scenes crew, I had a chance to see what people were saying online. And while there were a few red flags on occasion, for the most part, our social channels were tagged with enthusiasm and joy.

Fast forward to present day, and the online world seems to have been cast in a tar impossible to wipe clean. Hate, vitriol, bitterness, anger. All teeming from individuals hiding behind the comfort of their screens. I've seen organizations who fly the rainbow flags forced to turn off comments, and take down entire posts showcasing their Pride; hidden once again into the shadows of the world, their colours dimmed.

It's worse than it's ever been. And we can point fingers for why, but it's not set in stone. Is it that the 'great' leaders of this world use their platforms to spew hate? Is it because the keyboard warriors of the day are finding their footing when trampling others?

It's not worth focusing on.

I can write a whole editorial dedicated to trying to convince those who carry cruelty in their very cores that they need to do better.

But it won't make any difference. Many of their thoughts are already set in stone.

But here is my glimmer of hope: the next generation.

When I visit the accounts of the many who bring their digital pitchforks to the debate, searching for a pulse on their profile, I note that they are adults. Individuals who should know better, but who are fully formed in their thinking. An editorial won't change their cruel cores.

But, at the first official flag raising in Dysart by Pride in the Highlands, I brought my kids.

While the eldest was in camp, I brought my youngest step-daughter and my toddler son. In a surprise to few, the toddler was busy. Very busy. It was a full-time job to keep eyes on him.

So I handed my camera to the nine-year-old.

And when I went back to look at the photos, I saw Pride through her lens.

She didn't see hate, vitriol, bitterness, anger. She saw people holding hands. She saw colours contrasting with clouds in the sky. She saw smiles, she saw laughter, she saw friends, she saw love. A new lens, a new outlook, on the positivity of Pride, and everything it can represent.

Every photo of that flag raising in this edition is by her. A nine-year-old, who chose to see hope instead of hate, love instead of lashing, Pride instead of pain.

The lens of the next generation: it's worth focusing on.

# Restorative government

**Pair, Ponder**

*Poke, Peel*

*Fay Martin*

DISSATISFACTION WITH how democracy works is widespread at the moment. The longest ballot in Canadian history is making an appearance in a by-election in Alberta – the logic is a bit elusive, but generally the intent is to draw attention to the shortcomings of the First Past the Post approach to weighting votes. The Man Who Would Be King to the south is eviscerating what remains of democracy in that country and appears to be unstoppable. Carnage is happening all over the world and the institutions we created to curtail war seem to twiddle their thumbs. The global economy is in chaos and the market offers a Munch scream of horror and impotence.

There seems to be a building consensus that resuscitating democracy requires that we bring it home and start all over again.

Adrienne Maree Brown peels that onion to the core in a trilogy of dystopian fantasy books (*Grievers, Maroons, Ancestors*) that trace the recovery of Detroit after it is made vulnerable by economic abandonment and victimized by a pandemic virus, H8 (hate: get it?). Dune, an introverted teen who matures in this world, traces the pathway to recovering civilization by practicing 'the repeated motion of care', first for her dying grandmother, rippling into larger circles as she builds community. 'If you want democracy in the world', Brown says in an interview on *Between the Covers,* 'you have to look at how you conduct your own household, how you are every day in the world.' What is democracy, she asks, but a way of caring for each other at a high level?

The assumption underlying Brown's trilogy is that human beings default to care rather than competition in times of crisis. This brings to mind Mark Carney chiding CBC senior reporter Rosie Barton in one of his first press conferences as prime minister. 'Look inside yourself, Rosemary,' Carney said (something like), 'and ask why you presume that my intentions are negative.' That conversation was about Carney's financial assets, but it exposes the default position of negativity and gotcha-ism that masquerades as keeping elected officials accountable. If we treated new hires by expecting the worst of them, we'd soon have no staff. Which, come to think of it, is what seems to be happening in the political sphere.

While wandering in Maastricht, Netherlands, last May, my companion and I investigated something happening in a public building that turned out to be City Hall. In theory admission was guarded, but in reality we were carefully but warmly welcomed. The 'happening' was residents gathering for a birthday party hosted by the mayor for all who had birthdays that month. He arrived, greeted the crowd enthusiastically and whisked them off for a tour of the facility while staff laid out sandwiches and dainties. Wow. I think democracy had a growth spurt that day!

Closer to home, Dave Meslin in *Teardown: Rebuilding Democracy from the Ground Up*, approaches in a different way Brown's idea of 'breaking down the society inside you.' He parses each component of current Canadian political literacy and practice to expose the elements that destroy its efficacy from within. He urges us to start with our kids, our schools, our communities, our service groups to get it right – which he defines as increasing both the quantity and quality of political participation.

Some of his suggestions made me nostalgic. My generation learned the basics of governance as children, in the Red Cross Club, the Students' Union, Ways and Means Committees. We nominated, we campaigned, we voted, we chaired, we took minutes, we kept financial books and defended them, we organized parties and fund-raisers, we did the grunt work, we negotiated improvements to current practice and future priorities. We practiced democracy.

Where did that education go? Why did it disappear? (If it didn't, I'd be delighted to hear!)

You know I'm going to say that competition co-opted caring under the tutelage of capitalism. That the forces that brought Detroit to its knees are not a figment of Brown's imagination but a visible consequence of 'market forces', the gown that capitalism wears. The germ of regenerating democracy are also evident there, based on throw-away invisible people finding their power by caring at various levels. Brown thinks magic is 'the ritual of caring: repetitive, disciplined, knowledgeable'. She thinks everyone has it at their disposal.

If we feel invisible, silenced, impotent, exploited – all the things that democracy was supposed to do away with – it behooves us to look within ourselves to find the magic to turn it around. This starts with caring for ourselves (in harmony with the earth – a theme I'll explore further another time), moving in ever-growing circles -- not to a Utopia, but to a sanctuary that is, by definition, in movement and therefore temporary. What isn't growing is dying. Start tending!

# points of view

## The road to extinction

FIRST, IT was the dinosaurs. Then it was the early pest control professionals – the only people who ever had a vested interest in dinosaurs. The list of species that have gone extinct since then is a long and sad one. The worst part is people are almost always to blame.

We know that allowing a species to go extinct is not right. Yet, when there is a benefit to us, we frequently look away and let it happen.

For instance, we knew that once the dinosaurs were gone, no one would ever have to spend three days cleaning up after a dinosaur pooped on their lawn again. So, we chose to look the other way.

I am going through a very similar moral dilemma now. You see, in our house, right now, the once-common dust bunny is racing headlong towards certain extinction. I'm not going to lie to you. I have just sat idly and watched it happen. I hate vacuuming.

*Steve Galea*

**Loon Tales**

But I remember a time when the dust bunny was ubiquitous in our home. They were in all the usual places, under the couch, bed, and furniture. They also roamed in countless numbers across the open floors in herds that spanned as far as the eye could see. Some of us thought it would always be this way. We thought this was the order of things.

But then Jenn went and bought a Roomba.

The Roomba is a robotic vacuum whose primary prey is the dust bunny. It is an invasive species in our environment, and it roams throughout our house at least once a day, a ruthless and effective hunter of dust bunnies.

So much so, that I haven't seen a dust bunny in the open in five days. The great herds are gone.

But at what cost?

I can't help but wonder what will happen one day when that Roomba has no more dust bunnies to hunt? Will it be satisfied with vacuuming barren floors? Or will it decide it wants to hunt the most dangerous game – man!?

Before you think this is silly, I want you to remember one thing – Jenn programs this thing. Also, there are some days on the weekends when it takes a trained eye to tell me apart from a dust bunny.

Call me paranoid, but I'm preparing for the Rise of the Roomba. In fact, I now have a rudimentary plan. Should I see our Roomba stalking me, displaying any form of aggression, or merely looking at me like it looks at dust bunnies, I will make an immediate tactical retreat downstairs.

Stairs are kryptonite for Roombas. It's their one weakness.

Roombas, as of this moment in time, are incapable of using stairs. But I'm sure that will change in 10 years or so when they become sentient – or when houses have escalators.

By then, however, the dust bunnies will just be a distant memory. Then what will we tell our grandchildren?

So, what can we do to avert this?

Don't buy a Roomba, that's what.

Ours chases me around the house and is generally mean to the pets too. Also, apparently, it always has the right of way. Worse still, it mops and does not place "Wet Floor" signs out.

And, that my friends, can only lead to the fall of man.

**pic** *of the* **past**

It was a tradition in the Chambers family of Carnarvon to go berry picking in mid-August of each year at Trout Lake (now called Sherborne Lake.) The excursions were as much picnics for friends and family as an opportunity to gather berries for canning. This photo was taken in 1913. The pictures, as with other photos made during this period, were developed and printed at home and occasionally processed as postcards. Submitted by Bob Chambers

## Ice cream and crickets

"BREATHE IT all in. Love it all out." Mary Jane Oliver was an American poet who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 and the National Book Award in 1992. She spent most of her life in nature and her poems reflected that passion. I love to read her poetry and I get a lot of inspiration from it.

I feel like I spent this weekend breathing it all in, and loving it all out. I had the absolute pleasure of attending the line dancing on Saturday in Minden, at the Minden River Cone.The line dancing was organized by DH3 (Dance Happens Here Haliburton) in partnership with Pride in the Highlands and the River Cone.

*Tales from the great*

*Lynda Shadbolt*

**Green meadow**

I found myself thinking, a community that dances together is strong. People of all ages were participating. Jacquie Bell was the instructor and she made it so easy for everyone to feel immediately welcome, successful and at ease. Her music was great and some people tapped their toes and others danced. I felt like we were breathing out love the whole afternoon. The staff at the River Cone were so delightful and made sure we got our free ice cream cones as quickly as possible.

Less than 24 hours later I was on top of Sir Sam's Ski Hill in Eagle Lake. A small group of people gathered to walk, ride or drive up to the top where the look out is. We gathered together for a quiet Sunday morning yoga class by donation to the Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre. We started the class by sitting or lying down and breathing with all of life that was there. The trees, the lake, the sky, the birds that were flying overhead. There was a lovely soft breeze and we could hear crickets happily chirping. We remembered our own goodness, and the goodness that was all around us.

We paused and then we moved in creative ways to work on our strength and mobility. At one point we all held a pose and acknowledged something we were grateful for. Eckhart Tolle is a well known meditation teacher and he says: "Acknowledging the goodness that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance." As we moved and stretched I felt like we were breathing in all the fresh air and the beauty and loving it all out.

Maybe this is what we have to do right now. Pause, breathe, connect, remember our belonging and that we matter. And then love it all out. Do the things that you are inspired to do to help this planet of ours. It takes every single person to be their best self and contribute in the way that they can. We are all at different stages and ages in our journey, and we all have something to contribute. What a great county we live in where so much good happens. Keep breathing it all in and loving it all out.

letters to the editor

# *Pic of the past location identified*

We would like to thank our readers for taking the time to help identify a location presented in last week's Pic of the Past. While we heard from quite a few readers, the two submitted letters below outline the location in great detail. Please note that original attachments submitted were omitted based on space.

Thank you again for taking the time to solve a great mystery!

**To the Editor,**

This photo was taken from the foot of the Dorset tower shortly after the Highway 35 bypass and bridge around Dorset were constructed. My father, Alan Gordon, who worked at the Frost Centre in the mid '50s, had a similar photo taken on a fall day. Lake of Bays proper is on the right and Hollow River Bay is on the left. There were agricultural fields around Hollow River Bay up until the 1960s, especially on the south side, and my dad sometimes took me as a young boy walking, in both forests and fields there. Occasionally, we would run into the McKays, who lived in the clump of trees you can see to the left of the bridge. Roy McKay, former MNR forest technician, still lives there.

**Andy Gordon,**
**Minden Hills**

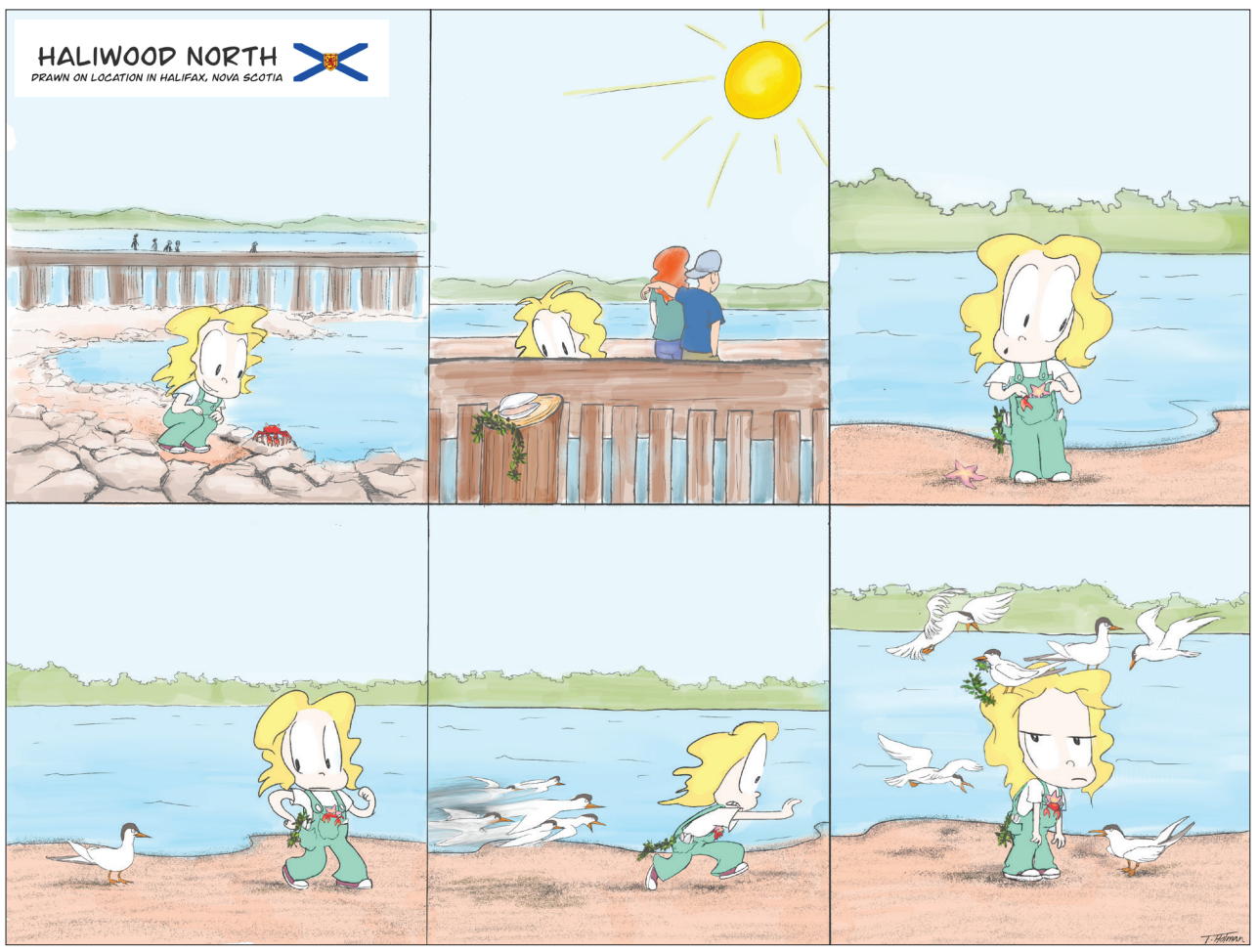
**To the Editor,**

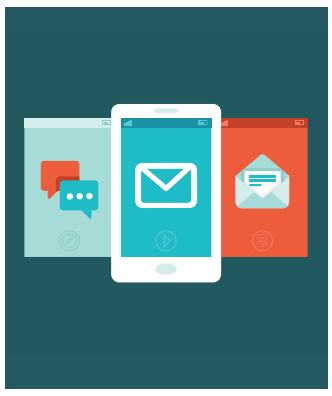
I believe the Pic of the Past in the August 19, 2025 edition was taken from the Dorset Lookout, looking south on the Highway 35 bridge over the Dorset Narrows.

It wasn't hard. The oak tree was the giveaway.

Here's my challenge to the *Times*: Ask your readers to date the photo from the features they can see, and to name the young couple. I'm guessing they would be in the 80s today. It would be quite a story if they could be found and were still together.

**Peter Hynard,**
**Minden**



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

## *Minden Memories*

Haying was a labour-intensive task when this photo was taken in 1943 at the Peel farm on Hilton Point Road, just north of Norland. Horses pulled the wagon, while workers loaded and unloaded the hay by hand. On the wagon are Vic Peel and Ken Twiner; on the ground are Lorne Peel and Gord Rooney. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

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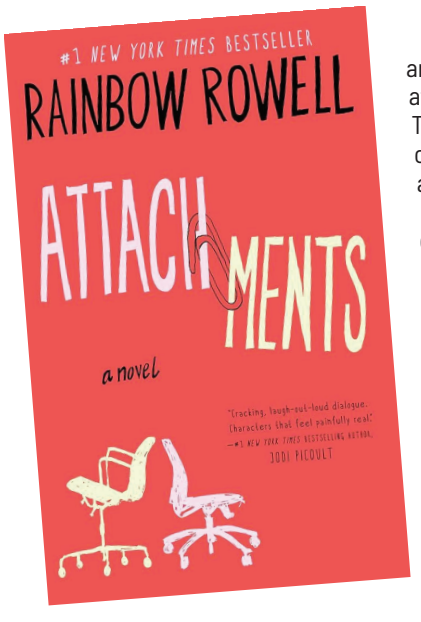
## Book of the Week




Beth and Jennifer know their work emails are being monitored (it's company policy, after all) but they can't help themselves. They carry on sending each other hilariously candid messages discussing every aspect of their personal lives.

Lincoln, the new internet security officer, never imagined his job would mostly involve reading coworkers' emails instead of battling cybercriminals. When he stumbles across Beth and Jennifer's witty exchanges, he's torn between duty and amusement. Before long, he realizes he's falling for Beth but is it too late to make a move? What would he even say?

*Attachments* by Rainbow Rowell is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. To place a hold or learn more, visit haliburtonlibrary.ca.

# Belly dancer hopes to inspire local dancers

THOMAS SMITH

*Journalist*

Victoria Kramkowski will be running a belly dancing workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Haliburton Highlands Brewing. /Submitted

Victoria Kramkowski's favourite way to meet people in the community is through belly dancing.

A Toronto native, Kramkowski and her family purchased a cottage in the Carnarvon area two years ago.

After visiting Haliburton Highlands Brewing, Kramkowski was struck by how lively of an arts scene the brewery hosted with live music nights, a ukelele shop, and other programming happening all the time.

While growing up, Kramkoski danced ballet like many young kids. The first time she ever saw belly dancing was when she was brought to her mother's work party.

'"I thought it was so beautiful, so amazing," said Kramkowski.

Without a belly dancing studio nearby, Kramkowski was in her 20s when she revisited her dream of belly dancing.

Living her dream, she has been belly dancing for the past 20 years.

While there are many types of belly dancing, Kramkowski specializes in Egyptian style belly dance, or raqs sharki. While this style has roots in Egyptian social and folkloric dancing, raqs sharki was heavily influenced by the vaudeville style performers of the 1900s and continues to be influenced by western dancers today.

Kramkowski typically teaches people cabaret style dance moves. The movements are simple, yet elegant. All ages are invited to participate in the class, says Kramkowski. In the past, she has taught both children and at retirement centres.

"Belly dancing looks beautiful on every type of body," said Kramkowski. "I love dancing with, and for women."

Kramkowski says that unlike ballet, people can belly dance their entire lives, regardless of your age. It is a great workout too, getting you up and moving, while using your core and other muscles that may not be getting much attention. Belly dancing gives you a cardio workout through moving and Kramkowski says it is great for strength training, especially your arms, shoulders, and legs.

One unexpected benefit with belly dancing is increasing your body's awareness. Through isolating movements and coordination, you can learn about your own body better and better use your muscles.

Throughout the workshop, Kramkowski works towards teaching choreography that students can take home and dance at home.

"I love when I have brand new students belly dancing," said Kramkowski. "I get to watch them grow and progress."

Balancing her time between living and working in Mississauga and visiting the cottage, Kramkowski hopes to build an interest in belly dancing in Carnarvon and one day, start their own belly dancing troupe.

While women are Kramkowski's primary demographic, everyone is welcome to participate in the workshop, with the stipulation that they are participating with an open mind and are coming to dance.

Participation in the belly dancing workshop costs $20 per person. All participants are encouraged to wear what is comfortable. It is highly recommended to wear pants, leggings, or shorts in order to see your leg movements. Belly dancers typically dance barefoot, but you can dance in your socks or dancing slippers, if you have them.

The next belly dancing workshop will be taking place on Wednesday, Aug. 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Haliburton Highlands Brewing. Refreshments will be available, including non-alcoholic options.

"It's a great time," said Kramkowski.

# MVPs

Finally (and I mean FINALLY) Haliburton got its rain! And it mostly arrived Tuesday evening during one of our glorious soccer matches (of course!) It was wet and gloomy and a welcomed surprise to all the dry heat we have been getting these last few months. Those that braved the downpour were in high spirits as we merged teams to adapt to the smaller number of players and adjust for the slippery grass and slick soccer ball. The 10-13 boys teams "voluntold" the coaches to play Keeper as the strikers launched devastating shots on nets all game long. Nominating them for MVPs was a very fitting reward for the hard work they have put in this year. Up the road, the Boys 7-9 age groups kept the field alive with an amazing turn out as these young superstars learn to get comfortable in uncomfortable situations... "It's only water, now let's have fun!" Our Thursday night teams benefited from a lusher grass and cooler air, and the Girls and Co-ed teams met with more vigour than previously expected. With one more week in the season, the gameplay is at its peak and we will hopefully end the season on a high note!

*Submitted by Andrew Brown*

Lincoln Brown & Matt Renda - Boys 10-13 - Coaches (Goal Keepers)

Sydney Holman - Co-ed 4-6 - Purple Team

Aliyah Cox - Girls 10-11 - Navy Team

Easton Walker & Ander Brown - Boys 7-9 - Purple Team

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# MVPs

Georgette Stewart & Sophia - Girls 7-9 - Kiwi Team

Jalynn Chambers and Fynnley Miscio - Girls 12-13 - Green Team

Phoenix Darling - Girls 7-9 - Purple Team

Hazel Townsend - Girls 7-9 - Silver Team

Skyla Pettes - Girls 10-11 - White Team

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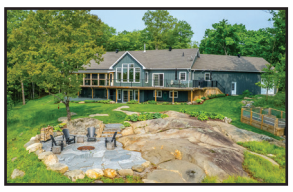

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- Level Lot, Stunning Lake Views

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The Welch Room was packed on Friday, Aug. 22 for the Voice of Pride reception held at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The artworks will be on display until Aug. 30 and many pieces are available to be purchased. /THOMAS SMITH staff

# *Voice of Pride* exhibition packs MHCC's Welch Room

THOMAS SMITH
*Journalist*

Pride in the Highlands' *Voice of Pride* exhibit had its opening reception on Friday, Aug. 22.

Filled with community members, friends, and artists, the Welch Room at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre was filled wall-to-wall with people looking at works of art, asking questions to the artists, and connecting as a community.

Artists that provided work for the exhibition included Anne Bailey, Danielle Clements, Fernando Diaz de Leon Rendon, Rachel Gillooly, Kris Hamill, Noelia Marziali, Elise Muller, Cara Oleksuik, Danielle Reddick, Deborah H. Reed, Kim Beavis Sanderson, Taliah Stephenson, Ian Varney, Mishal Venu, Scott Michael Walling, Mack Watson, and Jackie Wells.

During the reception, I had the opportunity to speak with some artists about their work and the importance of the *Voice of Pride* exhibition.

Kim Beavis Sanderson is a New Media artist that incorporates illustrative techniques with augmented reality technology. A Peterborough based graphic artist and animator, Sanderson was first attracted to utilizing augmented reality in their art to have a business card that stood out.

Their artworks on the wall included a graffiti wall, a can of Sucker Brand Green Pea "Stink Soup", and a retro television. Using their phone, their artwork comes to life with their own animation they created to complement the pieces. Their works connect you to the modern day not only with technology, but reminding you of the greed in the world, the consistent presence of 2SLGBTQIA+ voices in society through graffiti, and how society is moving towards the future.

Sanderson says that events like *Voice of Pride* are important as methods of expression, especially for queer identities. Sanderson has their own studio in Peterborough and can be found on Instagram under the account @newartybeavis.

Fernando Diaz de Leon Rendon is a multidisciplinary artist that is currently based in Kinmount. Growing up in Mexico, his artistic journey was nurtured by his family, later attending the OCAD in Toronto.

Moving to Kinmount with his partner fulltime, Diaz de Leon Rendon says that the artist community in both Kawartha Lakes and the Haliburton Highlands drew him to the area. While Diaz de Leon Rendon's practice is typically with repujado (involving hammered metal relief work), his "Cosmos" catches the eye with explosive colours, metals, and shimmering sparkles evokes a vision of our galaxy.

"It is a gift, to say that I am doing what I am doing," said Diaz de Leon Rendon. The work took around two weeks to complete, with multiple layers needed to make the piece truly pop.

"I can express my feelings," said Diaz de Leon Rendon. "And help people see what I see."

Working as an artist, he is proud to have established himself in the industry, and loves to participate in both studio tours and art events like Kash Art on the Water. This year's *Voice of Pride* is the second year in a row that Diaz de Leon Rendon has his artwork.

Deborah H. Reed moved with her partner to Haliburton in 2017. Painting professionally since 2002, Reed says that inspiration comes to her randomly. From fleeting shadows to something she hears a child say, Reed gets inspiration for her art from life around her.

Especially since living in Haliburton, Reed says that she has a plethora of beautiful landscapes and the simplicity of life in the highlands grants her inspiration.

"I like to experiment and if something works, then I'll try it again," said Reed, with a laugh.

Reed says that events like *Voice of Pride* are excellent ways to have 2SLGBTQIA+ voices represented, with many navigating a lifelong journey of discoveries in their sexuality and gender.

"A lot of people are closeted," said Reed. "I am still on that journey and I am 72."

Coming out later in life, Reed says that she has been fully supported by her family.

"Pride is a way of sharing my voice," said Reed. "I am glad my grandkids got to see their grandma's paintings."

Reed says that one of her paintings sold last year, encouraging her to continue her craft. While she pours her heart and soul into each piece, knowing that someone else gets to love her artwork patches the hole left in her heart.

The *Voice of Pride* art exhibition, curated by Scott Michael Walling will be on until Aug. 30 in the Welch Room at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Walling says that he looks forward to the exhibition growing with more artists year after year.

Cultural Program Coordinator Robert Wong says that the cultural centre is proud to offer their facilities to Pride in the Highlands and encourages 2SLGBTQIA+ people to express themselves.

"It is great to see so many people come together and converse with the artists," said Wong.

Wong says you do not need to understand what comprises art, just to come with an open mind knowing that *Voice of Pride* is for everybody.

# A message to our readers:

Many would note that our location at the *Minden Times* office has been quiet for some time now.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff began working from home. Then, with the *Minden Times* and *Haliburton Echo* papers run by the same company and staff, with overlapping news stories, once we started working from our offices again, we found the majority of production took place in our Haliburton office.

While that was easier from a unified team perspective, we noted a definite absence in Minden. This is why we have partnered with staff at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre (MHCC) to offer a space for readers of our paper to have their say.

Setting up a space at the MHCC was a natural fit. The Cultural Centre carries a significant amount of historical content from the *Minden Times*, the oldest paper in the community, and one of the oldest in Canada. While our primary archives will live on at our Haliburton offices, our community presence will flourish at the Cultural Centre in Minden moving forward.

If anyone has a letter to the editor, or wishes to meet with the editor for an in-person meeting, the Cultural Centre is the place to go. A mailbox has been set up on-site, and letters can be dropped off through MHCC staff during their regular open hours, Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you need more information, or to set up a meeting, please contact emily@haliburtonpress.com.

We are grateful for this community partnership, and look forward to continuing the presence of the *Minden Times* within the vibrant atmosphere of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre; celebrating the rich history of our community while continuing to share the stories of our past, our present, and our future.

*Sincerely,*
*Emily Stonehouse, editor*

# Minden Hills meets to learn of assets in closed session

THOMAS SMITH
*Journalist*

On Aug. 21, Minden Hills council held a special council meeting.

The special meeting was for an education and training session regarding asset management. The entirety of the meeting was in a closed session.

The special council meeting's agenda cited section 239(3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001 which requires the meeting to be held for the purpose of education or training the members and that at the meeting, no member discusses or deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council.

Assets could include Minden's roads, infrastructure, buildings, and equipment.

While the content of the presentation is unknown, any further developments regarding Minden Hill's assets will be reported on in the *Times*.

# 'No benefit' to invasive plant in Minden

**from page 1**

"This is not the kind of environment that they can really impact to a great degree, but if they get into the wetlands, they just grow like crazy," he said. "This plant grows in very, very dense stands and then it reduces the biodiversity of the area so the native plants get pushed out and the native wildlife, they get no benefit from this plant.

"They don't feed off of it, they don't nest in it, for the most part, so there's no upside. It also actually draws water out of the wetland and transpires it to the point where it reduces the water in the wetland," Whitteker.

The plant is also a wildfire hazard, Whitteker explained. In the fall the Phragmite dies off and becomes dry stocks.

"Then in the spring, you've got all these stocks of plants, densely packed into an area they then can create a potential fire hazard," he said.

Ontario has regulated invasive Phragmites as a "restricted species" under the province's Invasive Species Act, making it illegal to import, sell, or grow the plant. The Ontario government, in collaboration with several conservation authorities and organizations, including the Invasive Species Centre and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, is spearheading a co-ordinated effort to tackle the invasive plant throughout the province.

Community members can help in the fight against the invasive plant by cleaning off recreational equipment and utility vehicles, along with hiking boots should you be out on a hike, in an effort to prevent the spread of invasive Phragmites seeds.

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FALL COLOUR UPDATES

# Costume swap makes Halloween accessible for all

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

It may seem like summer is just winding down and Halloween is way off on the horizon, but the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) is already thinking ahead to spooky season.

This will be the first year that HCPL will be hosting a Halloween Costume Swap - a program available to everyone and anyone interested in donating or picking up some new-to-you costumes. "It felt like the perfect fit for our community," said Shawna Gamblen, programming and outreach coordinator with the library. "A fun, budget-friendly, and eco-conscious way for families to get ready for Halloween. Best of all, it helps make the celebration barrier-free so everyone can take part."

The idea was inspired by similar programs run by other libraries across the country, as well as the Great Haliburton Clothing Swap, which was facilitated in collaboration between the Municipality of Dysart et al and Fleming College.

The library will be accepting costumes in all sizes, from babies all the way up to adult, "as well as fun extras like hats, wigs, masks, costume jewellery, and props," said Gamblen. She noted that as long as things are clean and gently used, they will be readily accepted. On the day of the swap, all donations will be organized by size and type, so it will be easy to find something that works.

While Gamblen notes that Halloween is a fun time, it can also be expensive, especially considering the costume is only used for one day. "We wanted to create something that takes away that stress and makes it easier for everyone to join in the fun," she said. "A swap is budget-friendly, eco-friendly, and totally barrier-free - you don't need to donate to participate. It's about saving money, reducing waste, and building a tradition that brings our whole community together."

Costumes can be dropped off at any HCPL branch across the county between Sept. 12 and Oct. 10. On Oct. 11, the Minden and Dysart branches will be open for all to shop the "new-to-you" costume collections, free of charge. Remaining costumes will be brought to Stanhope and Wilberforce to be featured on Oct. 18." And remember, anyone can take part - even if you don't have a costume to give," reminded Gamblen.

The Halloween Costume Swap is one of the many programs offered by the HCPL to provide support and services to the community. For the full list of coming events, visit their website at www.haliburtonlibrary.ca. "We're proud to offer this as just one of many free resources your library provides to bring people together," said Gamblen. "Whether it's costumes, books, or programs, the library is here to connect our community, spark creativity, and make sure everyone feels welcome."

## Art in the East

The 23rd annual Highlands East Studio Tour took place this past weekend, featuring the work of artists living in Highland Grove, Harcourt, Wilberforce, Tory Hill, Gooderham and Irondale in east Haliburton County. Pictured above, Elaine Beetison showcases her work, seen below as well.
/TIM YANO staff photographer

Above, Chuck Lewis stands in front of his landscape pieces, depicting the natural environment. Below, Sue Riley shows he colourful works of art.

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# A Knight in shining sounds

*How one musician plans to share sounds in the Haliburton Highlands*

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

Musician and sound technician Mike Knight has been around music long enough to bring his expertise to his own sound studio, in the heart of the Haliburton Highlands. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

It's one of the senses that truly connects us to the world.

Through sound, we hear the cries of our babies. We hear laughter from our friends. We hear our names being called, our dogs welcoming us home.

And most importantly, we hear music. That universal language that crosses oceans and ages, that transcends time and space.

To Mike Knight, he's always felt a passion for bringing those sounds to life.

"I don't wear headphones when I do sound," he said, while we toured his work-in-progress sound studio on a rainy Tuesday afternoon. "I want to hear it the way others hear it. The way we all hear it together."

But we're getting ahead of ourselves.

The story of Mike's commitment to showcasing and sharing sounds started in a place far away. South London, 1966, to be exact.

"Music has always been a part of my life," laughed Mike, a Canadian for many years now, but the British lilt still clinging to his vowels. "The first music I really got into was rock and roll."

While Mike shared that he was raised in a household that believed children should be "seen not heard," his older brother was responsible for introducing him to some of the rock and roll greats of London in the 1970s. "I wanted to be a drummer," recalled Mike. "But we could never have afforded a drum kit. So I turned to guitar, but couldn't figure out the chords. Finally, I landed on bass."

He remembers being introduced to the Beatles for the first time, and how that was one of the first examples of a band he began to appreciate and grow with, as his own worldly experiences continued to evolve. Music can have that effect.

By the 1980s, Mike was joining bands across the United Kingdom. He's played over 500 semi-professional gigs as a bassist in his lifetime. "We travelled around a lot," he recalled, noting that his favourite gig he ever played was overlooking Niagara Falls, right over-top of the rushing waters.

He took a hiatus when he was married, and started a family.

But when that marriage ended in divorce, sending him into a tailspin of turbulence, he took on a part-time job working in a rehearsal studio. "And this was where I really found music again," said Mike. "Overnight, my whole interest in music opened up again. I started getting to know myself again."

While he was working the graveyard shift at the studio, he met a metal band, who was complaining about a poor recording they had received from another agency. "And a lightbulb went off," said Mike. "I saw a gap in the industry."

He went to work, with his passion for music fuelling his process, and developed a system for remote live recordings using a travelling PC desktop; providing the band with a CD as a finished product. Bands flocked to the initiative, and Mike's mastery of understanding sound dynamics put him on the map.

With his journey back on track for making music, Mike was ready to open his mind and heart to the premise of love once again. This was when he met Kim, who was teaching in Scotland at the time.

But here's the kicker: while Kim was teaching abroad, her homebase was Canada.

"And I followed her home," laughed Mike.

The two share a home right between Haliburton and Minden, where soft twinkle lights hang from the ceiling, and musical art adorns every wall. "I do, I love music," said Kim. "We always had the radio on growing up. It's just always been a part of my life."

With records and CDs stacked neatly in each corner, it's apparent that the couple spends time on that common ground together. They shared memories of traveling to Graceland together, their love of music fuelling their drive.

While neither work locally full-time, with commitments to jobs outside the county, they chose the community for the property. "I always say, do we want location for work, or quality of life, and I will always choose quality of life," said Mike.

And that quality of life extended beyond the resident humans of the house. With an acre and a half of land, the property was ideal for the couple's aging German Shepard at the time, Luna. "She was 13 years old when we moved," said Mike, "and we wanted to give her a great life into her golden years."

But Mike has never lost his connection to music. The sprawling property came at an advantage for his dreams, as well. "I finally had somewhere I could build my own studio."

And he has. The domed roof of Apple Tree Recording Studio, the home of MAKKsound, will soon house the many sounds of the Haliburton Highlands. While Mike is still a few weeks from completing the extensive sound project, the details are clear cut. The space opens with a large room for the band to connect, a windowed section to the back designed for a sound engineer, and a booth to the side set up for vocals. Each detail is meticulous, right down to the curved corners of the room, creating a space where soundwaves can run freely and clearly.

"It's my first time doing anything like this," said Mike, as he gazed around the space. "I had never thought specifically about sound before. I just played for the love of playing. But my playing style has changed over the years. And eventually I just fell in love with the sound part of it."

Mike prides himself on his ability to problem solve, and present outside-the-box solutions. "I do troubleshoot quite well," he said with a laugh, noting that he embraces the challenges that come alongside working with a variety of styles and genres of music.

The technician intends to welcome all to Apple Tree Studios, with him at the soundboard. He also has a drum kit, and a wide variety of instruments and gear available for performers to utilize when renting the studio. "The vision for Apple Tree is that it's open for whatever," he said. "Musicians, voice-overs, video editing, whatever is needed. Anything to do with sound, I'll do it."

He also noted that the location of the studio could also serve as a destination or a retreat for bands to collaborate and produce within, like many of the musical greats have done in the past with iconic destinations around the world. "Part of that musical experience is to be in the heart of the Haliburton Highlands," he said.

While Mike continues to chip away at his dream, he is also doing sound for the Haliburton Folk Society, Haliburton Rotary for Music in the Park, and a variety of independent gigs around town. He gives credit to his friend and supporter, Walter Tose, for helping him become immersed in the local music scene. "He's been quite prominent in opening doors for me," Mike noted. "I'm very grateful for that."

Apple Tree Recording Studio is working towards opening mid-autumn. To get in touch with Mike for use of the studio, you can email him at studios@makksound.com.

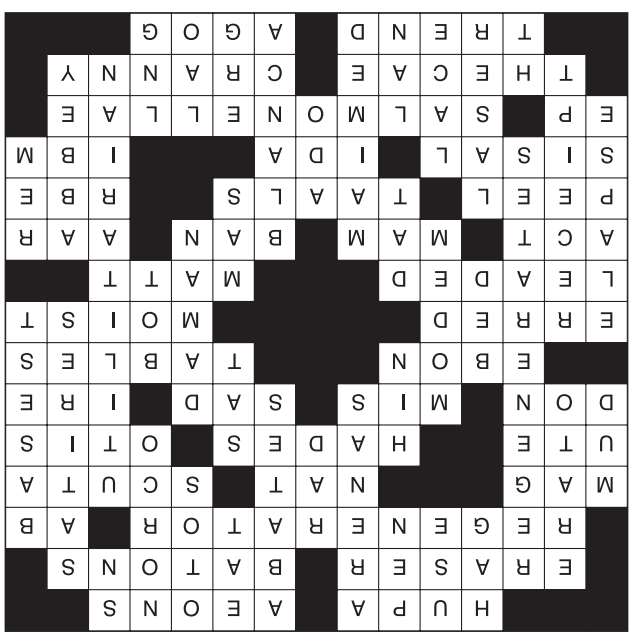
And if you work with Mike, only then will you understand his natural ability to completely understand the music, while he continues mixing without headphones in an effort to hear the natural sounds created.

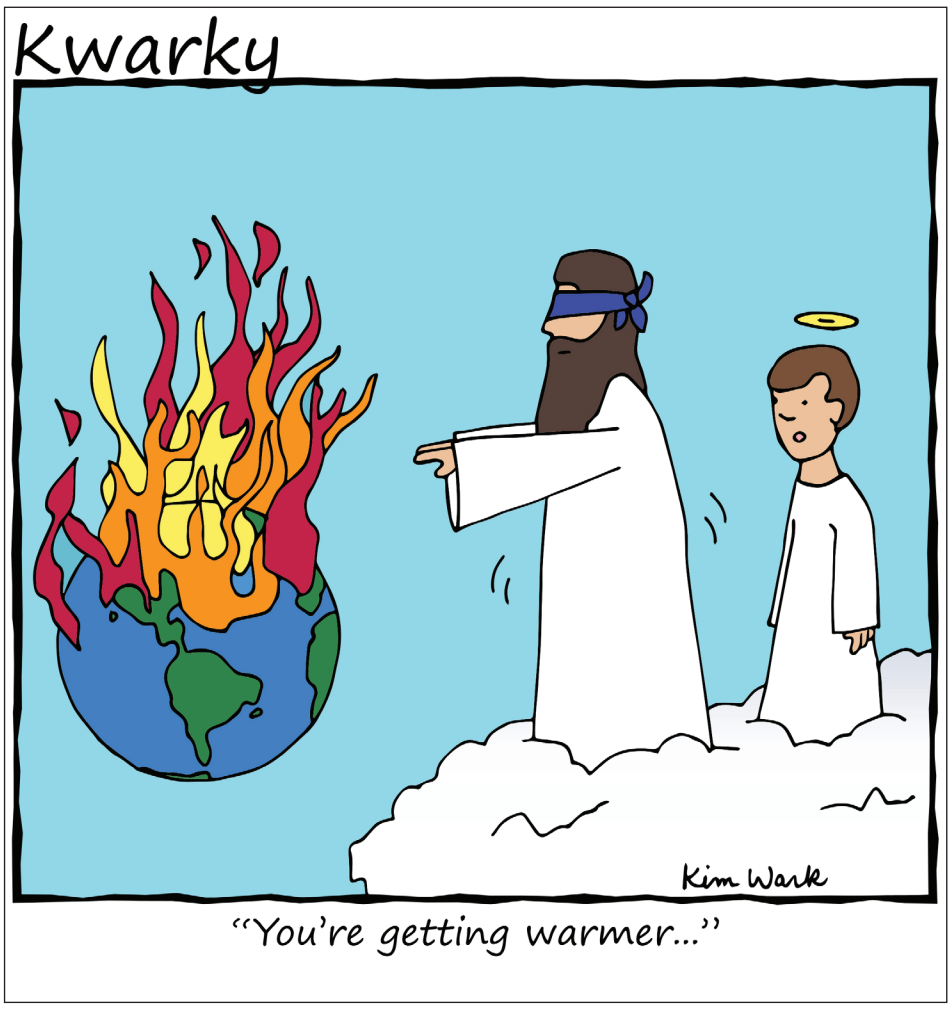
Because it's one of the senses that truly connects us to the world; that universal language that crosses oceans and ages, that transcends time and space.

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 |

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS



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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | | 6 | 2 | | 1 | |
| | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | | |
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| 3 | | | | | 8 | | 9 | |
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| 4 | 3 | | | | 1 | 7 | | |
| 1 | 7 | | 6 | | | | | |
| 6 | | 5 | | 7 | | | 3 | 4 |

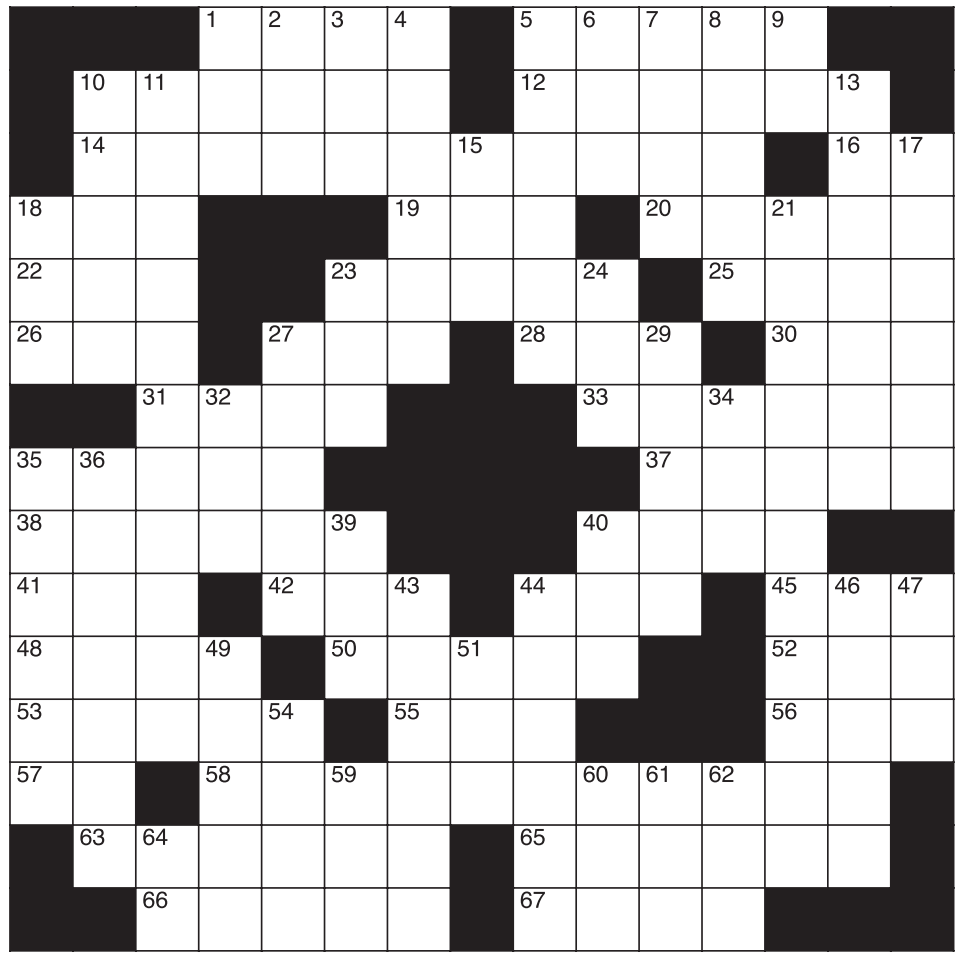
Level: Beginner

**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:**
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

*Answers on page 17*



CLUES ACROSS
1. Native American people of CA
5. Long periods of time (Brit.)
10. Classroom tool
12. Rods
14. One who renews
16. They start the alphabet
18. Periodical (slang)
19. Smooth singer Cole
20. Dorsal sclerites in insects
22. One from Utah
23. The world of the dead
25. Singer Redding
26. Mafia head
27. Wrongly
28. Unhappy
30. Anger
31. Dark olive black
33. Places to sit and eat
35. Made a mistake
37. Damp
38. Banned fuel type
40. Actor Damon
41. What thespians do
42. A polite address for a woman
44. Disallow
45. Swiss river
48. A banana has one
50. Afrikaans
52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
53. Agave
55. Journalist Tarbell
56. One-time tech leader
57. Incidentally (abbr.)
58. Intestinal bacterium
63. Loose sheats around the spinal cord
65. Accompanies nook
66. Vogue
67. Highly excited

CLUES DOWN
1. Witch
2. Utilize
3. Writing utensil
4. Where rockers work
5. Becomes less intense
6. Consume
7. Type of catfish
8. "Horsetown, U.S.A."
9. Atomic #50
10. The Muse of lyric poetry
11. Brings back to life
13. Humorous critiques
15. Cool!
17. Worst
18. Wet dirt
21. Useful
23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
24. High schoolers' test
27. Internet device
29. City in India
32. A place to rest
34. Chat responder
35. A way to move on
36. What consumers are given
39. Digital audiotape
40. More (Spanish)
43. Disfigured
44. White (Spanish)
46. Church building
47. Georgia rockers
49. Surgeon's tool
51. "Much __ about nothing"
54. Make by braiding
59. Local area network
60. Unit of work
61. Indigenous person of Thailand
62. Liquefied natural gas
64. Distance to top

*Answers on page 17*

## Song and dance

The Highlands Opera Studio put on *The Merry Widow* this past weekend at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The show cast a combination of talented locals alongside professionally- trained opera singers, to offer a brilliantly captivating performance for summer theatre-goers. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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## COMING EVENTS

*Coming*
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## COMING EVENTS

**The Highlands Performing Arts Society**
**Announcement of Annual General Meeting**
**and**
**Call for new Members of our Board of Directors**

The Highlands Performing Arts Society is also known as the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion and as the Theatre at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School

The Annual General Meeting of the Performing Arts Society will be held Wednesday, September 24, 2025, At 4:00pm In the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion (the theatre) At Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

Among other items the Board will receive names, both volunteers and nominations, for new Board Members of this Not For Profit mainstay of live performance in our community. Interest in joining the Board may be signified at the AGM or beforehand by contacting our office at

_____

Attendees and nominees must be Members of the Highlands Performing Arts Society. Membership costs $10.00 and can be purchased at the door.

## OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory of*
**John Fredrick Percival Payne**
*Passed away August 09/2025 at Niagara On The Lake L.T.C.*

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Haliburton United Church at 10 George St. Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 at 2:00 pm on Saturday September 6, 2025.

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## OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory of*

### Donald "Don" Veno

*Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Thursday, August 21, 2025 with his family at his side, in his 79th year.*

Beloved husband of Margaret "Peggie" and dear father of Adele. Loving grandpa to Brendan and his wife Carrie and great grandfather (Papa) to Rayne. Predeceased by his brother Keith and his wife Laura and by his sister Diane. Dear uncle to Duane and Therrin. The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses in the palliative care unit at the Haliburton Hospital for providing excellent care and empathy.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 for a Celebration of Don's Life on Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 12:00 o'clock noon until 2:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Minden Community Food Centre would be appreciated by the family.

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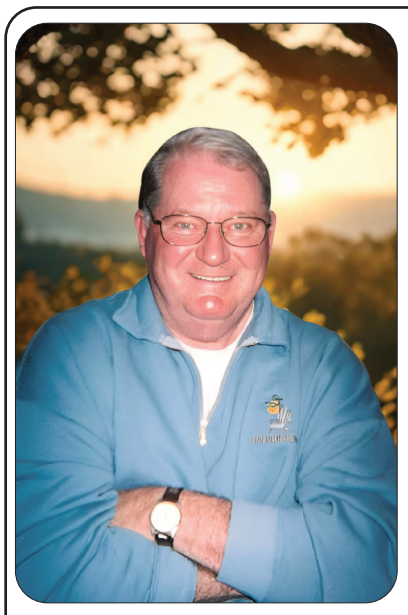

### Lloyd William Curry

*Resident of Haliburton*

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Lloyd William Curry, peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital in his 94th year. Predeceased by his beloved Wife, Louise Curry. Devoted Father of Tim (Bev), Tom (Kim), Dan (Coleen), and Dean (Terri). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren, Amanda, Jason, Shawna, Scot, Jodi, and Kelsey. Also remembered by his great-grandchildren, Riley, Wells, James, Ashtyn, and Lane.

Lloyd was a long-time employee of the Municipality of Dysart and a volunteer firefighter for over 30 years. Lloyd loved hockey, golfing, fishing, and most of all, spending time with his family. A special thank you to all the wonderful staff at the Extendicare and the Haliburton Hospital for their care and support for Lloyd.

**Private Arrangements**

As per the family's wishes, funeral arrangements are private. A private gathering for Lloyd's family will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Lloyd's memory can be made to the Extendicare Proud Pioneers. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

Community Funeral Home

***www.communityfuneralhomes.com***

*In Loving Memory of*

### Jeffrey Harold Becker

*March 8, 1951 – August 22, 2025*

Jeff died peacefully, surrounded by his loving family at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, Ontario on Friday August 22, 2025. Jeff was born in Toronto and grew up in Richmond Hill, Ontario where he met his wife Sally. Jeff also enjoyed many youthful memories spending time at Bass Lake in the Orillia region.

Loving and dear husband to Sally of 53 years and proud and loving father to Liane (Darren Molloy) and Jennifer. Predeceased by his brother John, father Jack, stepmother Cam, and mother Isobel (Stewart). Survived by his brother Andrew, sister in law Evelyn, nieces Meghan (Peter) and Lindsay (Gary), and nephew Matthew (Jennifer) and grand-niece Mikayla.

Jeff lived life to the fullest – a characteristic that was evident in both his professional and personal life. Jeff had a long and successful career in the Canadian fashion garment industry, leading Camden fashion group with his father Jack in the Toronto Fashion District at 14 Camden Street. Jeff proceeded from Camden and successfully owned his own fashion agency, Urban Agencies. Fashion came natural to Jeff following in both his father's (Jack) and grandfather's (Arthur) footsteps. Jeff enjoyed his many friends and customers throughout Canada in the fashion business and always looked forward to heading out on the road to visit his customers in person.

Jeff was creative and was always working on his next invention. Jeff enjoyed road trips & travel, music, cars, television & movies, his Harley Davidson motorcycles, boating, barbecuing and most importantly his family and friends. Jeff cherished his time at his beloved home on Halls Lake in Haliburton, Ontario where he retired to the lake from Toronto. Jeff valued his many friends and neighbours within the Halls Lake and Haliburton community along with his family's Australian labradoodle "Hallsy".

Jeff loved people, always had a story, loved to chat, naturally made people laugh and was always smiling with a positive outlook to any circumstance. Jeff loved to talk to his friends and family and his countless conversations and phone calls will forever be missed by all.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to all their family, friends and neighbors as well a the staff at Barrie RVH, Toronto General and Princess Margaret hospitals for their care and support.

The family wishes to reflect and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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# Events and Activities Listing September 2025

## Corduroy Enduro

**Sept. 18 - 21**

The Corduroy Enduro is a gruelling two-day off-road motorcycle event to earn a coveted finisher medal, held every September. This year's course features extreme sections, river crossings, MX tests, and an ISDE-style bike impound. The event also offers non-competitive trail rides, demo rides, parts, gear & more. Visit corduroyenduro.ca

## Hike Haliburton

**September 18, 19, 20 & 21st.**

Visit the website: festival.hikehaliburton.com to learn more and register for hikes throughout the county.

## Visitor Information Centre Open

Our Visitor Information Centre at 2786 Essonville Line in Wilberforce, at the Curling Club, is open Thursday to Monday 10 am to 4 pm, (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). We offer mineral permission to collect forms, directions, geocaching information and GPS rentals, trails, events, and other general area information. Free Wi-Fi is also available.

## Trails

Whether you like to walk or run, ride a bike, horse or an ATV, one of Highlands East's trails is sure to please. Come enjoy the fall colours.
Maps and descriptions can be found on our website highlandseast.ca.

## Household Hazardous Waste Day -Tory Hill

**Saturday, September 27. 10 am to 2 pm.**

Tory Hill Landfill 19178 Highway 118 between Wilberforce and Tory Hill. Dispose of items such as paint and oil that would not normally be allowed at landfills.

## Mineral Collecting

Mineral collecting is a fun outdoor activity. Adults and kids alike will delight in the chance to dig for buried treasure and bring home some colourful gems of your very own! Get a Permission to Collect form (free) from our website highlandseast.ca.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

**Sewage Stink**
*North Kashagawigamog Lake Road residents upset about pumping station smell*

**Monmouth Ag Fair**
*Annual celebration of rural life takes over Wilberforce for a day*

**Fabulous Fergie**
*Former Major Leaguer Ferguson Jenkins donates to Camp Wanakita*

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
www.haliburtonecho.on.ca
email: info@haliburtonecho.on.ca
Tuesday, August 21, 2001
Vol. 118 No. 19
$1 including GST

DARREN LUM/Echo

A long tradition of fun and frolic was the order of the weekend at the 137th annual Haliburton County Fair in Mnden. Thousands enjoyed the midway, stared in awe and covered their ears at the 1812 war re-enactment for both the parade and at the fairgrounds, applauded the horse pulls and meandered their way through the curling arena's various booths. Here, a young participant checks out the agricultural exhibits. More photos pages 8 and 9.

# Protests building over Gay Venture cottage proposal

**CATHY OLLIFFE**
*Staff Reporter*

An interval cottage development proposal for the Camp Gay Venture property on Lake Kashagawigamog is only in the planning stages but already people are lining up in opposition to it.

Last Tuesday the matter came before Minden Hills councillors during a meeting of the township's Economic Development and Planning Committee. It came in the form of a request from a planning company, The Planning Partnership in Barrie, asking for a public meeting to be scheduled as part of a zoning by-law amendment process that, if approved, would change the property on Part of Lots 27, 28 and 29, Concession 4, from the Tourist Commercial (C4) Zone to the Tourist Commercial Exception (C4*40).

The amendment would permit the construction of a cottage resort, similar to Chandler Point, which could include a maximum of 18 units. Accessory uses also permitted would include docking facilities for 18 boats, a manager's residence and office, accessory storage buildings and outdoor facilities for skating, tennis, badminton and/or volleyball.

In draft copies of the proposed amendment, an interval ownership cottage resort is defined as a commercial use owned by an organization with members who share the right to occupy the units.

Committee members agreed to arrange a public meeting, tentatively set for Sept.

See **Plan** *page 4*

# Highlands Festival wraps up successful season

**MARTHA PERKINS**
*Editor*

With *Colours in the Storm* leading the way, the Highlands Summer Festival celebrated a highly successful season, with almost half of the 28 shows being sold out.

"We put a lot of people into the seats and got some really good feedback," says artistic director Barrie Wood, taking a well-deserved break at his Eagle Lake home after starring in two of the four productions and directing the two others.

The average attendance over the six weeks was 77 percent. "Any theatre company in this country would be pretty pleased," says Wood, who came on board this season after his own highly successful career in theatre, including Toronto and travelling productions of Cats, Beauty and the Beast and Crazy for You.

Given that the Festival's budget was roughly $60,000, this high audience rating was necessary to ensure the Festival broke even. Wood says not all the figures are in yet, but the Festival might have also made a small profit.

The most popular production was the biggest – *Colours in the Storm*, a Canadian musical about the life and mysterious death of painter Tom Thomson. Starring Wood in the main role and with an ambitious set by visual director Rose Pearson and director Darrell Dobson, the production brought together a stellar ensemble of local performers.

Over the eight performances, 92 percent of the seats at the Northern Lights Pavilion were filled.

Wood isn't surprised. "It's a good piece – a strong script with a good score. (Set in Algonquin Park in the 1910s), it was the connection to the here and now of where we are. And people love a tragedy

See **Team** *page 11*

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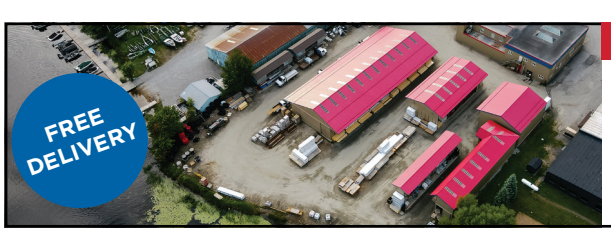

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## Watch for Hurricanes

The cast of *Hurricane Diane* did a dramatic reading as a part of Pride Week in the Haliburton Highlands, hosted at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The play was put on by the youth theatre company, Ctrl-Art-Del. and drew a large audience to the outdoor performance. /photos submitted

# SIRCH Repair Café *Because fixing is better than tossing*

Why throw it away when you can repair it?

Thanks to the talented volunteers at the SIRCH Repair Café, hundreds of items are rescued from the landfill each year - everything from electronics and small appliances, textiles and ceramics, bikes, and even jewellry.

And this month, we're extra excited: Dave from Algonquin Outfitters will be joining us once again to repair bikes and get them road-ready!

It's more than just repairs - it's about community. The Repair Café brings people together, offering a friendly space to learn, connect, and share skills. Together, we're making Haliburton County more sustainable - one repair at a time.

***Please note:*** Our September Repair Café will be at a different location: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St. (off Bobcaygeon Rd.)

Mark your calendars! The next SIRCH Repair Café is Sunday, Sept. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Minden Community Centre. And remember, the Café runs every first Sunday of the month from April to October. We'll be back in Haliburton for October!

We're always looking for volunteers who love to fix things and share their knowledge with others. If you're a fixer at heart, join us and help extend the life of household items while reducing waste.

For more information, call 705-457-1742 or visit www.sirch.on.ca


**www.mindenhills.ca** **In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247**

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## COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

**August 28 – Regular Council Meeting**
**September 11 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

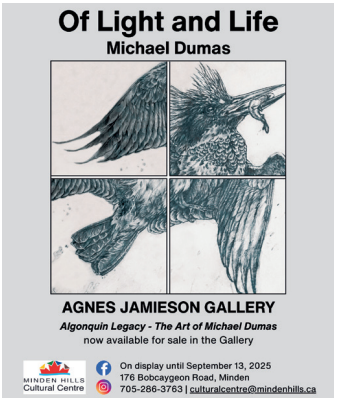
- Building Inspector/Bylaw Officer
- Seasonal Roads Labourer
- Student Arena Attendants
- Casual Community Services Operator
- Part Time Waste Facilities Operator
- Full Time Roads Equipment Operator

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply

## MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *Of Light and Life* by Michael Dumas is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 13. The exhibit features over 70 original works. Copies of Michael's recently published book Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas are available for sale in the Gallery.
- The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is pleased to partner with Pride in the Highlands for the 2nd annual Voice of Pride Art Exhibition, curated by local artist Scott Michael Walling. The exhibit will be on display until August 30.
- Join us on Thursday, August 28 for our last outdoor movie night of the summer! We will be presenting The BFG (2016). Don't forget your lawn chair, blanket, and snacks! If it rains, the event will still take place indoors in the Welch Room. No pre-registration is required. This film is rated PG.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am. Coming up later this week: Thursday – Crafty Hands Crocheting, Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone at 11 am and Ice Cream Making at 2 pm, Heritage Workshop – The Typewriter.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.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## FALL REGISTRATION

The fall drop-in program schedule will be starting on Tuesday September 2, 2025. Take a look at the full schedule online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

## WATCH FOR WORKERS

Construction season is here. Keeping a work site safe includes everyone. Slow down and watch for workers when approaching road work sites.

## RECYCLE YOUR HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

Don't throw your used batteries in the garbage—keep them out of the landfill. Household batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, and button cells) can be safely recycled at any of our waste disposal sites. Recycling batteries helps recover valuable materials and prevents harmful chemicals from entering the environment.

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